

**Amendments to the Claims**

1-19. (Withdrawn)

20. (Currently Amended) A slicer [apparatus] for slicing of [potatoes,] foodstuffs comprising:

a rotatable disc having a radial slot therein and a knife blade projecting above [the] a plane [of] defined by [the] said rotatable disc;

a chute for downwardly conveying [potatoes] foodstuffs to said rotatable disc, [the] said chute being at an acute angle with respect to [the] a direction of rotation of [the] said rotatable disc; and

an orifice between said chute and said rotatable disc;

said chute having a region tapering and extending forwards in [the] said direction of rotation of [the] said rotatable disc, said orifice between said chute and said rotatable disc [including] being at said region of [the] said chute, said orifice having a shape that decreases in width in [the] said direction of rotation of [the] said rotatable disc.

21. (Currently Amended) The slicer of claim 20, wherein [in which the] said orifice is an ovate shape of decreasing width in [the] said direction of rotation of [the blade] said rotatable disc.

22. (Currently Amended) The slicer of claim 20, wherein [or claim 21 in which the] said chute has an elbow therein.

23. (Currently Amended) The slicer of claim 22, [any one of claims 20-22 in which] wherein [the] said orifice is of a tear drop shape [,] with [the] a narrow end pointed in [the] said direction of rotation of [the slicer] said rotatable disc.

24. (New) The slicer of claim 20, wherein said radial slot has an adjustable width.

25. (New) The slicer of claim 21, wherein said chute terminates in a housing

covering and conforming to said ovate shape.

26. (New) A method of slicing foodstuffs with a slicer comprising:

feeding foodstuffs into a chute of said slicer;  
rotating a disc of said slicer having a radial slot therein and a knife blade projecting above said disc;  
retaining the foodstuffs in a substantially fixed position by urging said foodstuffs into a region of said chute that is tapered and extends forward in a direction of rotation of said disc; and  
slicing said foodstuffs with said knife blade so that a slice passes through said radial slot.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said slicer has an orifice disposed between said chute and said disc, and wherein said orifice has an ovate shape of decreasing width in said direction of rotation of said disc.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said chute has an elbow therein.

29. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein said slicer has an orifice disposed between said chute and said disc, and wherein said orifice has a tear drop shape with a narrow end pointed in said direction of rotation of said disc.

30. (New) The method of claim 26, further comprising adjusting a thickness of said slice by adjusting a width of said radial slot.